



**City of Cortez**  
123 Roger Smith Ave.  
Cortez, Co. 81321

## **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

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November 8, 2022

Mayor and Council:

The following is my report for the current term:

- Veterans Day – The Veterans of Foreign Wars – Montezuma County VFW Post 5231 has invited the Cortez City Council to the Veteran's Concrete Plaza Dedication on Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11, 2022 at 10 a.m. in Veterans Park.
- Assuming passage of the annual budget ordinance tonight, City staff is working hard to ensure that the remainder of City business supporting the day to day operations are prepared and set in motion for Council action during the remaining two Council meetings of this year. Much of this has been in the works for months, but we are now on the right track to position the City for a smooth transition to the next fiscal year. Even so, we collectively have a lot of work ahead of us in the first half of next year to help position the City for future successes. Hopefully we can get most of the work done during the coldest months.
- Employee Spotlight – Don Cornett

Don Cornett joined the Army right out of high school and celebrated his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday while at boot camp. From August of 1978 to December of 1981, he served as an MP while stationed in Germany. When he returned, he tried to get on with the Cortez Police Department and made it to the final two applicants, but Dave Waterman, who was a good officer here decided to come back, so the position was given to Dave. No hard feelings as he knew Officer Waterman from previous encounters as a teenager!

Don then went to work at the Ramada Inn on South Broadway for two years; he then worked for Thomas Engineering as a surveyor helper; and then in the oil fields for eight years. Don was asked to transfer to Commerce City, but he had just finished building a new home here in Cortez. Larry Grider, his brother-in-law at the time, told him about a job opening with the City.

Don started working for the City of Cortez on August 29, 1994, in the Recycling Division. After several years, he transferred to the Streets Division as an Operator, and in 2015 was promoted to Street Foreman. The Street Division consists of maintenance and repair of streets; fixing potholes and crack-sealing; street sweeping, snowplowing and sanding in the winter; painting crosswalks, no-parking areas, and handicap spaces; installing traffic control and information/street signs; and tree-trimming.

Don is a valued employee in the Public Works Department, helping out with whatever needs done, and is our go-to guy for anything street related.